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LETTER DATED 19 APRIL 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you of the following.

On 15 April 1994 at a meeting of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States held in Moscow on the initiative of Azerbaijan, a Declaration on the maintenance of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the frontiers of States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States was signed.

The Declaration was signed by 11 of the 12 members of the Commonwealth.

The only member of the Commonwealth which did not sign the Declaration was Armenia.

I should like to point out that this is not the first time that Armenia has been evasive or blocked the adoption within the framework of international forums of decisions reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

For instance, Armenia did not join in the consensus and refused to support a decision by the Council of Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in Rome in November 1993 and a Declaration of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in Brussels in December 1993 - international documents which reaffirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

Such acts on the part of Armenia are yet further evidence of its territorial claims on Azerbaijan, in furtherance of which Armenia is also committing armed aggression against Azerbaijan.

It is clear that the world community must not allow Armenia to disregard and violate the fundamental principles of international law and must take appropriate action to put a stop to Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Declaration on the maintenance of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the frontiers of States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States

The Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

In accordance with the desire of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to preserve and strengthen their traditionally close ties of friendship and good-neighbourly relations,

Bearing in mind the importance of problems relating to the strengthening of peace and security in the territories of the States members of the Commonwealth, in the context of the safeguarding of European and international security and the maintenance of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the frontiers of States members of the Commonwealth,

Expressing serious concern over the armed conflicts of various kinds,

Guided by the generally accepted rules of international law, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the basic documents of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Respecting the sovereignty and reaffirming the territorial integrity and the inviolability of the frontiers of the other members of the Commonwealth, and the refusal to acquire territory illegally or to commit any other acts aimed at the dismemberment of the territory of another State,

On the basis of the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of others, the equality of rights and self-determination of peoples and the non-use and condemnation of the use or threat of the use of force,

Conscious of the interdependence of the security of the States members of the Commonwealth,

Being committed to the general goal of strengthening the Commonwealth,

Declare that the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States:

1. Will ensure compliance, in their mutual relations, with the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of frontiers;

2. Reaffirm that, in building their relations of friendship, the States will refrain from military, political, economic or any other form of pressure, including a blockade, and from support for and the use of separatism against the territorial integrity and inviolability and the political independence of any State member of the Commonwealth;

3. Confirm that the seizure of territory by force cannot be recognized and that the occupation of the territory of a State cannot be used to gain international recognition or to force a change in its legal status;

4. Express the conviction that respect for the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs is the most important condition for the strengthening of the relations of friendship and partnership between the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States;

5. Will prevent, in accordance with their national legislation, the establishment and activities in their territory of organizations and groups, and the activities of individuals, directed against the independence and territorial integrity of States members of the Commonwealth or aimed at the exacerbation of international relations;

6. Reaffirm their readiness to promote the settlement of disputes and conflicts through the use of the mechanisms agreed in each specific case and provided for that purpose in the corresponding documents adopted within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe;

7. Will consider, during meetings of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth, questions relating to the implementation of the basic documents of the Commonwealth of Independent States and of international treaties and agreements on the questions dealt with in this Declaration with a view to ensuring effective compliance with them.

DONE at Moscow, on 15 April 1994, in a single copy in the Russian language. The original copy shall be kept in the Archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which shall transmit a certified copy thereof to the States which have signed this Declaration.

For the Azerbaijani Republic:

Heydar ALIYEV

For the Republic of Armenia:

For the Republic of Belarus:

Mechislav GRIB
President of the
Supreme Council

For the Republic of Georgia:

Edouard SHEVARDNADZE
President of the Parliament
Head of State

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:

Erik ASANBAEV
Vice-President

For the Kyrgyz Republic:

Askar AKAYEV

For the Republic of Moldova:

Mircea SNEGUR

For the Russian Federation:

Boris YELTSIN

For the Republic of Tajikistan:

Emomali RAKHMONOV
President of the
Supreme Council

For Turkmenistan:

Saparmurat NIYAZOV

For Ukraine:

Leonid KRAVCHUK

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:

Islam KARIMOV

Moscow, 15 April 1994